

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 MCT-01
TRSE-00 SY-05 OPR-02 DHA-02 /082 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3280
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1847

PLEASE PASS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND SUBSTANCE TO AALC, NY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB PINS ET
SUBJ: FORMER CELU OFFICIAL KILLED AND OTHER LABOR DEVELOPMENTS

REF: ADDIS ABABA 1685 AND PREVIOUS

SUMMARY: MARCH 27 ETHIOPIAN HERALD REPORTED MARKOS HAGOS, CHAIRMAN OF PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE OF FORMER CONFEDERATION OF ETHIOPIAN LABOR UNIONS (CELU) KILLED DURING CURRENT SEARCH CAMPAIGN. HERALD ALSO REPORTED STATEMENT ISSUED BY ALL ETHIOPIAN TRADE UNION (AETU) WHICH URGED MEMBERS OF WORKING CLASS TO STEP UP THEIR EFFORT IN STRUGGLE TO WIPE OUT REACTIONARIES, PAID ASSASSINS, AND OTHER COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES AND TO COOPERATE IN SEARCH CAMPAIGN. IT ALSO REPORTED 12 COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES WERE EXPOSED BY EMPLOYEES OF ADDIS ABABA WATER & SEWERAGE AUTHORITY. MARCH 24 AMHARIC PAPER REPORTED 11 ANARCHISTS WERE EXPOSED AND 15 OTHERS WARNED AT BERHANENA SELAM PRINTING PRESS. RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTED AT LEAST 9 OF 11 WHO WERE EXPOSED AND SUBSEQUENTLY FOUND INNOCENT BY POLICE INVESTIGATORS HAD "REVOLUTIONARY MEASURES"

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TAKEN AGAINST THEM BY LOCAL URBAN DWELLERS' ASSOCIATION (KEBELE) DEFENSE COMMITTEE. END SUMMARY.

1. MARCH 27 ETHIOPIAN HERALD REPORTED MARKOS HAGOS, WHO ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF FORMER CELU MAY 31, 1975, WAS KILLED IN HIS HOME IN EXCHANGE OF GUNFIRE MARCH 25 AFTER ALLEGEDLY REFUSING TO

SURRENDER AND HAVING OPENED FIRE ON SEARCH TEAM. MARKOS HAD BEEN ACTIVE IN ETHIOPIAN LABOR MOVEMENT SINCE LATE 1960'S AND AS RESULT WAS ARRESTED BY PMAC IN 1975 AND SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED MARCH, 1976. ARTICLE CONTENDED MARKOS CARRYING OUT COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES AMONG OPPRESSED WORKERS ON DIRECT ORDERS AND INSTRUCTIONS OF EPRP. IT ALSO ALLEGED HE CONDUCTED THESE ACTIVITIES AT BEHEST OF EPRP EVEN PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 1974.

2. AETU ISSUED STATEMENT MARCH 26 CONDEMNING FASCISTIC ACTIVITIES OF ASSASSINS AND OTHER CRIMES PERPETRATED BY MEMBERS OF COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY GANGS SUCH AS EPRP. STATEMENT NOTED PAID ASSASSINS AND OTHER CRIMINAL ELEMENTS PRESENTLY IN MIDST OF PROGRESSIVE FORCES AND IT RESPONSIBILITY OF OPPRESSED WORKING CLASS MEMBERS TO WIPE THEM OUT. AETU FURTHER CALLED UPON WORKERS TO STEP UP THEIR EFFORTS IN CURENT STRUGGLE AND TO COOPERATE WITH PEASANTS' ASSOCIATIONS, KEBELES , AND OTHER REVOLUTIONARY FORCES DURING SEARCH CAMPAIGN.

3. ADDIS ABABA WATER & SEWERAGE AUTHORITY (W&SA) EMPLOYEES "EXPOSED" 12 AGENTS OF EPRP, EDU AND ELF, MARCH 26. W&SA EMPLOYEES ELECTED 12-MEMBERS REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE FOR TASK OF EXPOSING ENEMIES OF REVOLUTION. AMONG THOSE EXPOSED WERE REPORTEDLY LEADERS OF EMPLOYEES' UNION. THESE LEADERS ACCUSED OF HAVING DECIDED TO STAY AWAY FROM MARCH 24 GENERAL MEETING, INCITING EMPLOYEES TO BOYCOTT SECOND CONFIDENTIAL

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ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS, AND ALSO FOR URGING STRIKE LAST SEPTEMBER.

4. AMHARIC PRESS REPORTED "ESPOSURE" OF 11 ANARCHISTS AND WARNING OF 15 OTHERS AT BERHANENA SELAM PRINTING PRESS, MARCH 23. RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTED LOCAL KEBELE 07 DEFENSE COMMITTEE HAD ENTERED PRINTING PRESS AND COERCED WORKERS TO EXPOSE "REACTIONARIES". ELEVEN "ANARCHISTS" WHO EXPOSED TAKEN TO POLICE PRECINCT WHERE THEY SUBSEQUENTLY FOUND INNOCENT BY INVESTIGATORS AND TOLD TO RETURN HOME. FOLLOWING MORNING 9 BODIES, INCLUDING PREGNANT WOMAN, OF 11 WHO HAD BEEN EXPOSED FOUND IN VICINITY OF PRINTING PRESS. RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTED KEBELE 07 DEFENSE COMMITTEE, WHICH DISSATISFIED WITH POLICE ACTIONS, HAD TAKEN "REVOLUTIONARY MEASURES" DURING NIGHT. SAME DAY, KEBELE 07 SURROUNDED MINISTRY OF EDUCATION FOR PURPOSE OF EXPOSING MORE ANARCHISTS. MINISTRY OFFICIALS CALLED PMAC, WHO SENT SOLDIERS

TO REMOVE KEBELE MEMBERS. AFTERNOON, MARCH 24,
APPROXIMATELY 200 YOUNGSTERS AND SOME ADULTS DEMON-
STRATED AGAINST 07 KEBELE LEADER IN FRONT OF PLACE.
SEVERAL SOURCES REPORTED 07 KEBELE LEADER EXECUTED
OVER WEEKEND, ALTHOUGH EMBASSY UNABLE TO SUBSTANTIATE CLAIM.

5. COMMENT: CAMPAIGN TO RID LABOR MOVEMENT OF ANTI-
GOVERNMENT ELEMENTS CONTINUING AT STEADY PACE.
EXCESSES OF SOME KEBELE DEFENSE COMMITTEES BEING
HANDLED UNEVENLY BY PMAC. ALTHOUGH INSTRUCTIONS
URGING GREATER DISCIPLINE AND ADHERENCE TO GUIDELINES
ISSUED MARCH 24, SOME KEBELES CONTINUING TO IMPLEMENT
GUIDELINES AFTER OWN FASHION.
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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED AALC, NY.
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